

The Democrats' VISION DEFICIT

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE, REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Kicking the Entitlement Can Down the Road

The rising costs of government entitlements a “fiscal cancer” that threatens “catastrophic consequences for our country” and could “bankrupt America” said America’s chief accountant, **U.S. Comptroller General David Walker**. *(60 Minutes 3/4/07)*

Without “early and meaningful action” to address the rapid growth of entitlements, “the U.S. economy could be seriously weakened, with future generations bearing much of the cost” warned **Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke**. *(HBC hearing testimony 2/28/07)*

The Democrat response? Don’t bother us while we’re spending money.

Instead of tackling the entitlement problem, the newly minted Democrat majority wants to “add billions of dollars” to the President’s fiscal year 2008 budget, according to *CQToday* (2/28/07). But when it comes to getting control of entitlements . . . well, that will have to wait.

“It’s always easier to defer, to kick the can down the road to avoid making choices,” concedes Senate Budget Chairman Conrad – though he personally believes it needs to be done. *(60 Minutes 3/4/07)*

In that vein, House Budget Chairman Spratt told *CQToday* that Democrats won’t make changes to Medicare and Medicaid until the budget is balanced – which of course can’t happen without making changes to Medicare and Medicaid.

Sure, it would be easier to ignore the largest threat to our nation’s long-term fiscal health. But kicking the entitlement can down the road won’t make the problem go away. It will only make it worse.